

Appl. No. 10/672,729

Amnt. dated 7/7/06

Reply to Office Action of Mar 7, 2006

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A three dimensional stencil comprising:

a generally flat, flexible portion adapted for contact with a portion of a fingernail or toenail; and

a cut-out portion formed within the confines of the flexible portion, the cut-out portion adapted to form a three dimensional design on the nail;

wherein the cut-out portion includes walls having a thickness of at least about 1 mm; and

wherein the flexible portion forms an opening adjacent to the cut-out portion to allow a material for forming the three dimensional design to be poured into the cut-out portion and adhere to the nail;

and wherein the stencil is constructed to leave the three dimensional design formed by the cut-out on the nail when the stencil is removed from the nail.

Claim 2 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion is itself of a thickness of at least about 1 mm, and the cut-out portion forms an opening in the flexible portion.

Claim 3 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 1 wherein the cut-out portion comprises walls attached to and extending up from the flexible portion.

Claim 4 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 3, further including tabs connecting the cut-out portion walls to the flexible portion.

Claim 5 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion is generally nail-shaped.

Claim 6 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 5, wherein the flexible portion further comprises a sticky layer for sticking the flexible portion to the nail.

Claim 7 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion includes more than one cut-out portion.

Claim 8 (original). The three dimensional stencil of claim 7, wherein the flexible portion comprises a sheet larger than a nail.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the walls ~~have~~ have a thickness of between 1mm and 3mm.

Claim 10 (currently amended). A method of applying a three dimensional acrylic design to a fingernail or toenail comprising the steps of:

(a) Applying a flexible stencil having a cut-out with walls of at least about 1 mm to a nail;

(b) applying acrylic into the cutout to form a 3-d acrylic design; and

(c) removing the stencil, leaving the 3-d design on the nail.

Claim 11 (original). The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of: roughening the nail prior to step (a).

Claim 12 (original). The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of: applying primer to the nail prior to step (a).

Claim 13 (original). The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of: repeating steps (a) through (c) with different stencils or portions of a stencil to create a multilayer design.

Claim 14 (original). The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of: painting the 3-d acrylic design.